

# Driving Under the Influence

*Risks, Costs, and How it Can Be Prevented*



## What's the Risk of Getting a DUI?

Over 100 drivers get a DUI in Huntington Beach every month (Huntington Beach Police Department, 2013). Driving with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08 or greater, failing the field sobriety test, or being under the influence of a combination of alcohol/drugs all put a person at risk for a DUI. How much do you have to drink to get to 0.08%? Several factors play a role. Size, gender, rate of consumption, strength of drink, drug use and food intake can all affect BAC.

## What is a Standard Drink?

The liver can metabolize only one standard drink per hour – a standard drink is the equivalent to one shot (1.5 ounces of liquor), 5 ounces of wine, 8 ounces of malt liquor, or 12 ounces of beer.

## Cost of a DUI

Overall, a first time DUI can cost up to \$15,649. A DUI will always stay on your personal record and as of January 2007, a DUI stays on your driving record for 10 years (California DMV, 2011). California DUI laws are some of the strictest in the nation. It is a misdemeanor to drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. Conviction of a first DUI in California can cost between \$390 and \$1,000 in fines alone, not including the legal fees, penalty fees, and license reinstatement fees. Other penalties include:

- license suspension
- probation
- mandatory alcohol education programs
- increased car insurance rates
- installation of an ignition interlock device
- up to 6 months in jail

## Drinking and Driving Dangers

Drinking and driving is linked with thousands of lives lost each year. Of all the automobile crash fatalities in California, in 2010, 41% involved alcohol (California DMV, 2011). In Huntington Beach in 2012, there were 83 automobile collisions that involved alcohol (Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System). In addition to increased risks of alcohol involved automobile accidents, excessive drinking puts people at a higher risk for aggressive behavior, alcohol poisoning and risky sexual behaviors (Center for Disease Control, 2012).



## You Can Prevent Drunk Driving

### Plan Ahead

- Designate a sober driver
- Keep enough money for a taxi
- Get the keys from someone who is drinking
- Always know how you're getting home before you go out
- Have a back-up plan

### If You're Impaired

- Call #TAXI to get the taxi nearest to you
- Use public transportation
- Call a sober friend or family member
- Ask the bartender, manager or server to assist you
- Stay where you are until you're sober

### Report Drunk Drivers

- Call 911 to report drunk drivers
- Provide the location, description of the car, and how the car is being driven
- Do **not** try to follow or stop the car yourself